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FILED

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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

NUNC PRO TUNC December 7, 2012

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

MEREDITH A. BRAYTON, R.N. License No. 26NR08055400

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of (hereinafter, the "Board") on November 22, 2011 upon the filing of an Administrative Complaint by the Attorney General seeking the imposition of disciplinary sanctions against Meredith A. Brayton, R.N. (hereinafter, the "Respondent"). Said Complaint, filed by Deputy Attorney General Wendy Leggett Faulk, was predicated on Respondent's repetitive acts of fraud, misrepresentation and deception when seeking employment at health care entities in New Jersey. The Complaint alleged that between July 2010 and August 2011 Respondent submitted at least four applications for nursing-

nursing-related employment in New Jersey, all of which contained false representations of her work history, including detailed fraudulent titles and positions, promotions, and professional references. Respondent committed these acts of deception despite her knowledge of the Board's imminent disciplinary action against her for submitting an employment application in 2009 that contained similarly fraudulent information.

On December 16, 2011, the Board issued a Final Order of Discipline After Reconsideration of Penalty ("FOD") to sanction Respondent for her 2009 conduct. The FOD imposed a two year suspension of Respondent's license to practice as a registered nurse in the State, with one year active suspension and one year suspension to be stayed and served as a period of probation. FOD also enumerated the requirements Respondent must satisfy prior to the Board considering an application for reinstatement of her licenRespondent, who was formerly represented in this matter by counsel, filed an Answer to the Complaint on January 10, 2012, admitting that she did in fact falsify her work history on more than one application for nursing employment as alleged in the Complaint. On October 5, 2012, the Attorney General filed with the Board a motion for summary decision in this matter. The hearing is scheduled for December 7, 2012.

Respondent desires to resolve this matter without further proceedings, and agrees to waive any right to the same. The Board finds that Respondent's conduct, to which she admits in her Answer

to the Attorney General's Complaint, constitutes multiple acts of deception, fraud, misrepresentation and false pretense, and a basis for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b). Further, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-39, Respondent's license may be sanctioned for engaging in deception in the application or credentialing process of procuring employment at a health care entity. The Board, finding the within disposition to be protective of public safety and welfare, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS, therefore on this The day of December, 2012;

- 1. The active suspension of Respondent's nursing license imposed by the Board's Final Order of Discipline After Reconsideration of Penalty, as issued on December 16, 2011, is hereby extended for an additional eighteen (18) months, until June 16, 2014. In the event Respondent engages in the practice of nursing in any other jurisdiction during the period of active suspension, the suspension period shall be deemed tolled for the time period Respondent practiced elsewhere.
- 2. Respondent shall submit to a full psychological evaluation from a mental health professional approved in advance by the Board. Within sixty (60) days hereof, Respondent will submit the name and credentials of a preferred mental health professional to the Board for its approval, and such approval will not be unreasonably withheld.

- 3. Respondent shall request and utilize all best efforts to ensure that the Board receives a written evaluation from the mental health professional on or before December 16, 2013. In the evaluation, the evaluator must unequivocally attest that: 1) Respondent has fully disclosed the extent of the misconduct giving rise to the suspension of her nursing license, and provided to him or her a copy of the Final Order of Discipline issued December 16, 2011, and a copy of this Order; 2) Respondent has engaged in a professionally acceptable term of counseling with this professional and followed all treatment recommendations; and 3) Respondent is mentally fit and competent to return to the practice of nursing.
- 4. Respondent may not apply to the Board for reinstatement of her license before December 16, 2013. An application for reinstatement thereafter shall be made in the form of written notice to the Board.
- 5. In connection with an application for reinstatement, Respondent must appear before a committee of the Board and provide such information as the Board deems necessary and appropriate to allow a full and accurate assessment of her compliance with the terms of this Consent Order.
- 6. Upon reinstatement to active licensure, Respondent shall then serve a one (1) year probationary suspension period. During the probationary suspension, Respondent shall comply with all statutes and regulations applicable to the practice of nursing, as well as with the general laws of the State of New Jersey.

- 7. Respondent is hereby assessed costs in the amount of \$10,500.00. Such costs will be stayed indefinitely, unless and until the Board determines that Respondent again engaged in any conduct violating Board statutes and/or regulations, at which time the Board may immediately impose said costs as it deems appropriate. Further, the Board reserves the right, at such time as Respondent applies for reinstatement, to impose a monetary penalty and/or additional costs as it deems appropriate.
- 8. This Order shall constitute full and final resolution of the Administrative Complaint filed November 22, 2011.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, Bo, APN, FAAN

Board President

I have read the within Consent Order.

I understand and agree to be bound by its terms.

I understand that this Order contains significant legal consequences and I enter into this agreement with the Board without counsel. I consent to the entry of this Order by the State Board of Nursing.

Ruedith A. Brayton, RN

Dated: /1/29//2